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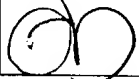
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/372,636	08/11/1999	WOLFGANG HORNSCHEMEYER	364/56	1684
26646	7590	04/07/2004	EXAMINER	
KENYON & KENYON ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004			KERN, KEVIN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1725

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	<p>Application No.</p> <p>09/372,636</p>	<p>Applicant(s)</p> <p>HORNSCHEMEYER ET AL.</p>	
	<p>Examiner</p> <p>Kevin P. Kerns</p>	<p>Art Unit</p> <p>1725</p>	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,10-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,10-12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/2/04</u>.</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.</p> |
|---|---|

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "14" (cooling bore holes). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

It is unclear whether or not the "thickness" in "other areas" of claim 11 are of a constant value, as claim 10 recites that the "thickness" is "reduced". In claim 10, does the term "reduced" mean "smaller, but of constant value" or "tapering"? Claims 10 and/or claim 11 should be written to clearly define the term "reduced", such that the value "1 to 6 mm" is compared to a distinctly defined structure. This terminology is also not clearly set forth in the specification.

The term "narrower" in claim 14 is an unclear term which renders the claim indefinite. Although "narrower" is deemed to mean "tapering in a conical manner", it remains unclear with respect to what direction (as a part of what larger structural

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feature?) the channels/bore holes become "narrower"? This terminology is also not clearly set forth in the specification.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: in the 1st line, "a" should be deleted after "for". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

With regard to claims 1 and 16, the new limitations "cooling bore holes running parallel to the pouring direction and at least one of running closer to the pouring surface, being configured narrower, and being spaced closer in at least one portion of the die body" are considered as new matter, as none of the prior drawings (replacement drawing Figure 3 also contains new matter in the form of cooling bore holes) show "cooling bore holes running parallel to the pouring direction". Even when considering

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the newly proposed Figure 3, the limitations "at least one of running closer to the pouring surface, being configured narrower, and being spaced closer in at least one portion of the die body" are all not clearly shown, resulting in a lack of enablement. As a result, claims 1 and 16 (taken in view of newly proposed Figure 3) are based on a description which is not enabling, and the current amendments to the drawings, the specification, and claims 1 and 16 introduce new matter.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claim 1, it is unclear what is meant by the limitations "at least one of running closer to the pouring surface, being configured narrower, and being spaced closer in at least one portion of the die body". Is the term "the cooling bore holes" missing after "at least one of", or is the claim intended to mean "at least one of 1) running closer to the pouring surface, 2) being configured narrower, and (or) 3) and being spaced closer, in at least one portion of the die body" (the latter perhaps requiring Markush language for clarity)?

With regard to claim 1, it is unclear what is meant by the limitation "being configured narrower" for the description of the cooling bore holes. Does "configured narrower" mean 1) bore holes of constant diameter being configured narrower, 2) bore

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holes tapering (thus being configured narrower), 3) being configured narrower in terms of space between individual bore holes, or 4) yet another possible meaning?

With regard to claims 1 and 16, it is unclear what is meant by the limitations "being spaced closer" (claim 1) and "being spaced at least 20% closer" (claim 16) for the description of the cooling bore holes. Does "being spaced (at least 20%) closer" mean 1) bore holes spaced closer to each other, or 2) bore holes spaced closer to the surface (to be cooled)?

In claims 10 and 11, it is unclear whether or not the "thickness" in "other areas" of claim 11 are of a constant value, as claim 10 recites that the "thickness" is "reduced". In claim 10, does the term "reduced" mean "smaller, but of constant value" or "tapering"? Claims 10 and/or claim 11 should be written to clearly define the term "reduced", such that the value "1 to 6 mm" is compared to a distinctly defined structure.

The term "narrower" in claim 14 is an unclear term which renders the claim indefinite. Although "narrower" is deemed to mean "tapering in a conical manner", it remains unclear with respect to what direction (as a part of what larger structural feature?) the channels/bore holes become "narrower"?

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the funnel". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim, as only claims 5-7 and 16 disclose the term "funnel", not claims 1 and 12, from which claim 14 is dependent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

9. Claims 1, 10, 12, and 15 insofar as definite are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mallener (US 3,595,302).

Mallener discloses a cooling structure for a continuous casting mold in which cooling mold plates with coolant grooves (an array of coolant holes 16a running parallel to the pouring direction and fed by coolant feeder grooves (22,23), serving as coolant channels) form a casting mold (die), such that the grooves 16a in the middle and upper portions are (at least 20%) closer together and deeper to permit greater heat abstraction through the middle and upper portions, which are thermally and mechanically stressed areas (abstract; column 2, lines 7-11 and 49-75; column 3, lines 1-75; column 4, lines 1-49; and Figures 1-7). A uniform temperature gradient is obtained by the preferential cooling (differential heat flow) of the upper portion of the mold (column 1, lines 34-39; and column 3, lines 36-44 and 56-62).

10. Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 14-16 insofar as definite are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Grove et al. (US 5,927,378).

Grove et al. disclose a continuous casting mold assembly (funnel-shaped with billet-entrance side wider than billet-exit side) in which molten metal is shaped (formed) and cooled within the casting space, further containing a selective cooling structure to accommodate heat transfer inequality due to circulation patterns, which lead to mold deterioration, particularly in the meniscus region 28 of the mold assembly (abstract; column 1, lines 60-63; column 2, lines 4-30; column 3, lines 12-61; and Figures 2 and 3). The liner plates are conventionally made of copper (column 1, lines 12-15). The mold assembly has a plurality of cooling slots (an array of grooves/holes running parallel to the pouring direction), in which the area around the meniscus (a thermally stressed area) contain slots machined to be deeper to produce an enhanced cooling effect at the area proximate to the meniscus 28, while producing a diminished cooling effect to other portions of the assembly (column 3, lines 28-67; column 4, lines 1-19; and Figures 2 and 3). The slot width (e.g. the gradually narrower slots 6 and 7 of Figure 2, with respect to slot 5 nearer the molten metal pouring side), length, spacings relative to transition region III (stressed area), and/or depths of the slots (see slots 1-19 in Figure 2), as well as the residual thickness parameters are varied accordingly along the funnel mold wall (column 4, lines 20-53; and Figures 2 and 3). The variable wall thickness in the meniscus region 28 (thermally stressed area of the broad-side wall of

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the mold liner assembly) is reduced on the order of a few millimeters (column 2, lines 4-30; column 4, lines 20-53; and Figures 2 and 3).

11. Claims 1-5, 10, 12, and 15 insofar as definite are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Stagge et al. WO97/43063). Note: for the Stagge et al. reference, page numbers and lines herein refer to the English translation of this German reference (provided in the prior office action of June 6, 2001). See the prior office action for the corresponding German pages/lines, if necessary.

Stagge et al. teach a funnel-shaped liquid-cooled chill mold (casting die) with a form-giving casting die body (page 6, lines 2-8; and Figure 1), which is made of a material of high-heat conductivity, namely copper (page 3, lines 3-12; page 6, lines 17-19; and Figure 3). The cooling-surface side of the chill mold, comprised of a cooling zone with multiple cooling channels (an array of grooves/holes running parallel to the pouring direction) for greater heat flow dissipation, is oriented on the sides of the mold with the thermally and mechanically stressed areas of the mold (page 4, lines 2-26; page 5, lines 1-5; page 6, lines 24-26; and Figures 2-4). The liquid-cooled chill mold (casting die) includes a cavity that is composed of two broad-side walls and narrow-side walls delimiting the width of the slab, or billet (page 6, lines 2-16). Deeper grooves are provided around the metal bolts for optimized cooling in these areas (Figures 3 and 4). The cross-section of the mold at the pouring-in-side end is greater than at the billet-exit-side end, or of a descending funnel shape with a hollow cavity becoming smaller in the pouring direction (page 4, lines 6-8; and Figure 1).

Response to Arguments

12. The examiner acknowledges the applicants' amendment, proposed drawing corrections, and Information Disclosure Statement, all of which were received by the USPTO on February 2, 2004. The Information Disclosure Statement has been initialled, and a copy is enclosed with this Office Action. The applicants' amendments have overcome a substantial portion of the prior objections and rejections from the prior Office Action. However, additional objections to the drawings, specification, and claim 16, as well as rejections under 35 USC 112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, are cited above. In addition, the newly proposed Figure 3, amendments to claim 1, and introduction of new claim 16 introduce new matter (see paragraph 5 above). Most of the prior art rejections have been overcome by the amendments, but the three remaining prior art references now set forth rejections under 35 USC 102. Regarding the claims, the applicants have cancelled claim 9, while adding a new claim 16. Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 14-16 are presently under consideration in the application.

13. Applicants' arguments filed February 2, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to the applicants' arguments/comments addressing the objections and 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph rejections on pages 9-13 of the amendment, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicants' assertion that the issues (set forth in paragraphs 2 and 7 above) are clearly set forth to one of ordinary skill in the art.

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There are a plurality of possible interpretations of the limitations of claims 10, 11, and 14, which were previously noted in the 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph section. Also, the specification, even as amended, remains unclear as it relates to these claims.

With regard to the applicants' arguments/comments addressing the prior art rejections on pages 13-16, 18, and 22 of the amendment, it is noted that the introduction of new matter and indefinite language (see 35 USC 112, 1st and 2nd paragraph sections above) render the selected claims rejected under corresponding sections of 35 USC 102 "insofar as definite" in paragraphs 9-11 above, as the broadest reasonable interpretation of these indefinite claims would render the claims as anticipated by these references. Importantly, cooling bore holes exist in the three prior art references, with the array of bore holes arranged parallel to the pouring direction. However, the term "parallel" is absent from the originally filed drawings, specification, and claims, and is considered as new matter (see paragraph 5 above).

Conclusion

14. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). The applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kevin P. Kerns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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kpk
April 3, 2004

Kiley Stone Art 1725
Kiley Stone 4/5/04

Kevin P. Kerns
Examiner
Art Unit 1725